COMMANDERS DIGEST

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Military Paychecks Will be Computerized

Defense Department intends to fully computerize every military man's paycheck by July 1, 1969.

Announcement and target date came Nov. 4 in the form of DOD Directive 7330.3 which established "JUMPS" or Joint Uniform Military Pay System.

Assistant Secretary of Defense (Comptroller) will serve as the Department of Defense focal point for "JUMPS." Officials of his office point out the system will be given a thorough shakedown and gain Government Accounting Office (GAO) approval before it is put into operation.

"JUMPS" is officially described as "the first major step of a long-range evolving program for continuous improvement of the Military pay system."

Would Reduce Payment Errors

For one thing it would eliminate clerical work and bottlenecks at base level, thereby becoming more responsive to pay changes coming from promotion, congressional action or even in the tax structure. For another it would reduce erroneous payments.

It also would give DOD officials ready-made data now obtained only through special reporting methods. This, too, would result in betterment of the military pay system.

Another major benefit would be a significant reduction in pay processing personnel at the local level with a resultant decreasing logistical burden in such places as Southeast Asia.

It should also have a favorable impact on the balance of payments in all overseas areas.

The new DOD Directive will require each of the military departments to establish one centralized pay center at a single location to handle 100 percent of its active duty members.

Encourage Check Payments

Cash payments will remain at base level. But DOD officials are encouraging check payments, particularly the check to bank method from each service's central pay center.

While the computerized pay system will be geared to such modern electronic communication networks as AUTODIN it must also be capable of operating by mail.

HONORED FOR SERVICE—Distinguished Public Service Medal hangs from jacket of Charles E. Wilson in recognition of more than a quarter-century of service to the government and the Department of Defense. Mr. Wilson, now a trustee of the Logistics Management Institute, has served with distinction in several top government posts. Robert S. McNamara, Secretary of Defense, presented the medal to Mr. Wilson.

Military Mail Privileges Include Recorded Messages

President Johnson has signed into law H.R. 13448 extending free mail privileges for servicemen to include recorded messages in addition to letters and cards.

"This means that our men in Vietnam can send home, postage-free, the sound of their own voices—and in some small way help ease the burden of being apart through words of love and reassurance," the President said.

He noted that the bill "will help bridge the distance between our servicemen in Vietnam and their families at home."

The President pointed out the new law will also help speed newspapers and magazines "to our men in Vietnam by available airlift, at lower surface mail rates . . . We are speeding their mail—more than two-million pounds every month."

In another area regarding servicemen in Vietnam, President Johnson said, "They are receiving the fastest and most modern medical care in the world — the remarkable care that saves the lives of almost 90 percent of those wounded."

Washington Memos

GENERAL WESTMORELAND LAUDS performance of Vietnamese forces as demonstrating growing professionalism and spirit: "The casualties reflect the fact that the Republic of Vietnam Armed Forces today are fighting more aggressively and in more difficult areas than ever before." He said the ratio of men killed in battle is becoming more favorable to our side, from a little better than two to one last January to more than six to one in September.

EFFECTS OF HIGH altitudes on unacclimatized troops are being studied by U.S. Army Research Institute of Environmental Medicine. Institute is comparing mental and physical performance of 3rd Special Forces Group conducted in August near sea-level in North Carolina with later performance by same group at altitudes above 12,500 near Mt. Evans, Colo. Effectiveness of drug Diamox (acetazolamide) to prevent acute mountain sickness was tested in Colorado.

BURN TREATMENT CREAM developed at Brooke Army Medical Center has been cited as saving lives of patients with up to 60 percent burns. A Sulfamylon cream with the consistency of butter, it has reduced serious burn mortality rates by preventing massive infections. It is applied by rubber glove and requires no dressing.

A NEW PRELIMINARY design for an Oceanographic Research Ship (T-AGOR) has been completed by Naval Ship Systems Command. New class of ship will have an over-all length of 220 feet, extreme beam of 46 feet, full-load displacement of 1,970 tons, and will be able to sustain speed of approximately 12 knots. It will be manned by nine officers and sixteen men, with accommodations for 25 scientists.

FIRST AWARD OF Michael R. Young Memorial Scholarship, worth $1,500 annually, is available next September. It was set up at University of Southern California by parents of late 101st Airborne Division enlisted trooper. Award is to former 101st members or veterans interested in International Relations. Write Mrs. Florence Scruggs, Director of Student Aid, University of Southern California, Los Angeles, Calif. 90007.

UNDER SECRETARY of the Air Force Norman S. Paul is in Europe for a ten-day series of meetings with Air Force commanders. He will receive briefings on USAF missions, programs, capabilities and operations in the theater and will discuss with commanders any problem areas. His return to Washington is scheduled for Nov. 18.

U.S. COAST GUARD Assistant Commandant VAdm. Paul E. Trimble, who also serves as Chairman of the Interagency Department of Transportation Task Force, has announced formation of an interim information service to handle press queries concerning the government's new department. Queries should be directed to Thomas F. McGarry, c/o Bureau of Public Roads, 1717 H Street NW, Washington, D.C. 20235.

RETIRED AIR FORCE General Jacob E. Smart took oath of office Nov. 1 as special assistant to National Aeronautics and Space Administrator James E. Webb. Gen. Smart retired from the four-star deputy Commander-in-Chief U.S. European Command post July 31.

U.S. ARMY FILM, "Laser-Miracles With Light," has been awarded "Golden Atom" in 1966 International Electronic Awards of Technical Cinema for being best picture in 1966 International Electronic, Nuclear, Telecommunications and Motion Picture Ressegna held in Rome. Ambassador from Italy, His Excellency Sergio Fenoaltea, presented award to Maj. Gen. W. E. Lotz, Army Chief of Communications-Electronics.

THE AIR FORCE MUSEUM at Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio, has received a 24-foot booster section used in August 1965 Gemini-Titan 5 mission. Booster is largest section of a launch vehicle ever recovered from space. Museum includes nearly 100 additional aircraft and missiles.

MILITARY SEA TRANSPORT Service reports that Bayonne, N.J., is the principal port for shipment of private vehicles to the Azores for members of armed forces and dependents. A considerable delay can result, officials said, if vehicles are delivered to any other port. Bayonne is about 50 miles from McGuire AFB, N.J., near New York City.

MARINE CORPS SELECTION board for Chief Warrant Officers and Warrant Officers is expected to complete its work by mid-November. Board is authorized to select 8 CWO-4s, 130 CWO-3s and all fully qualified to CWO-2.

FEDERAL AVIATION AGENCY predicts flying activities in 1966 will break all records. One example cited is an estimated 45.1 million landings and takeoffs this year. Full FAA statistical rundown can be obtained free by sending a self-addressed mailing label when writing Federal Aviation Agency, HQ-438, 800 Independence Ave. SW, Washington, D.C. 20553.

THREE CARGO RECORDS were set in October by U.S. Naval Support Activity at Da Nang, South Vietnam —port received 66,816 measurement tons for reshipment; received over-all 240,255 tons, and handled 333,156 tons at "I" Corps Naval Support Facilities.

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Military In Vietnam Given Added Benefits

In addition to signing a bill extending mail privileges for personnel in Vietnam, President Johnson, on return from his visit with servicemen in Southeast Asia, signed three other bills that directly enhance the welfare of servicemen and their families.

Bill H.R. 17271 will raise from $200 to $500 per month the combat pay federal tax exemption for junior officers. The President said this bill "will help eliminate a tax inequity that exists among our fighting men in Vietnam."

Enlisted men are already exempt from federal tax on pay received while serving in the battle zone.

Extra 30-Day Leaves

The President also signed H.R. 15748 authorizing a special 30-day leave for servicemen who voluntarily extend their tour of duty in South Vietnam for at least six months. This special leave is not chargeable to regular leave. All transportation costs to and from the place the serviceman elects to spend his leave will be paid for by the government.

Last of the four new bills signed by President Johnson was H.R. 14347 which liberalizes the compensation payments to children and eligible parents of veterans whose death is service-connected and streamlines the paperwork involved in applying for these and related benefits.

'Everything . . . Will Be Done'

"There can be no true measure of the heroic efforts of our servicemen in Vietnam," the President said, "but at least we can assure them—through legislation such as the four I have signed—that everything we can do for them will be done."

President Johnson stressed, "Our men are the best trained and best equipped in our history. They are under the command of our most able military leaders . . .

"We will never fail our men in uniform. Their cause is just and our debt is great."

Air Force Receives Funds To Buy New F-4E Aircraft

Fiscal Year 1966 funds have been released for initial procurement of 99 F-4E aircraft by the Air Force.

Produced by McDonnell, the F-4E will have an internally mounted M-61A1 20-millimeter Gatling gun, an improved fire control system, and engines with increased thrust.

The F-4E, like the preceding C and D series, is a twin-engined, two-place fighter capable of performing air superiority, close support, and interdiction missions.

Marine Commandant Praises Veterans of Past, Present

Never in past wars have we asked so much of our young servicemen as we are asking today in Vietnam, General Wallace M. Greene Jr., Commandant of the Marine Corps, stated in his Veterans Day address at Arlington National Cemetery.

Heaping praise on veterans of the Vietnam war and those of previous wars, Gen. Greene said the ceremony reflected "the nation's humble appreciation for past deeds, sober pride in current achievements, and abiding confidence in the future."

Every generation, he declared, "must face its moment of truth—a moment when it realizes that freedom has never been gained without sacrifice or retained without dedication—a moment when it recognizes that it is not enough to revere past heroic deeds or pay homage to ancient ideals—a moment when it knows that the preservation of liberty relies on positive involvement.

"Today, our nation is again engaged in the relentless, often frustrating, search for peace. Our search today is being pursued by veterans no less dedicated, courageous or persevering than their predecessors of past wars. Most of them closest to peril are veterans who have yet to reach their 20th birthday—veterans still too young to vote. But they are veterans in the truest and purest sense of the word—they have grown old and skilled through the shearing traumatic experience of the battlefield. They have gained a sudden maturity, a compassionate understanding, and a sense of responsibility through the shared dangers and suffering of the battlefield."

Overseas Deposits Reach Nearly $5 Million 1st Month

During its first month of operation in September, the new Uniformed Savings Deposits Program recorded nearly $5 million in overseas deposits.

This is the program (Public Law 89-538) designed to serve the dual purpose of providing an attractive savings program for overseas military personnel and of helping to redress the adverse U.S. "Gold Flow" or balance of payments.

Under the law the President can prescribe or change at any time the interest rate to a 10 percent maximum. In mid-August President Johnson set the maximum 10 percent interest rate, compounded quarterly, on deposits up to $10,000.

DOD statistics for September show that more than 20,000 officers and men from all services joined the program in its first month of operation.

The service breakout was: Army 12,832, Air Force 6,160, Navy 1,150 and Marine Corps 200.

Program Combats Flash Blindness

Aviation Physiology Training Units at six Navy and Marine Corps Air Stations have instituted a flash blindness training program.

Core of the program is the "Flash Blindness Indoctrinations Trainer," a device consisting of a high intensity flash source which simulates the light which would be encountered by a pilot at the time of a flash.

Flash blindness is considered by many in operational commands to be the most serious problem which will be faced by aviators conducting missions during a nuclear conflict.

Navy's concern with the problem of flash blindness has led to the development of protective devices ranging from simple techniques such as a monocular eye patch to highly sophisticated "active" systems which are transparent normally but become totally opaque upon exposure to intense light.

Purpose of the training program, officials said, is to interpret the flash blindness phenomenon both psychologically and physiologically in a manner so that pilots appreciate hazards of such an event and take appropriate action.

Portable Dental Unit Nears R&D Completion

Army Surgeon General's Office reports that a new dental clinic and laboratory is nearing research and development completion as a component of the Medical Unit, Self-Contained, Transportable (MUST) field hospital.

Portable shelters provide field dentists with the equivalent of fixed installation lighting, X-rays, high speed equipment, dental laboratory support, and other equipment. Shelters may be air conditioned or heated.

Facilities and equipment make maxillofacial surgery possible and capabilities are also provided for modern high speed operative, crown and bridge, and prosthodontic dentistry.

TRIPLE AWARD—Lt. Gen. Stanley Larsen, CG, I Field Force Vietnam, presents the Silver Star Medal and two Oak Leaf Clusters to Brig. Gen. Willard Pearson, CG, 1st Bde., 101st Airborne Div., for heroically distinguishing himself on three separate occasions.

Air Guard Air Teams Lauded by Humphrey

Vice President Humphrey has lauded National Guardsmen for undergoing the hardest training they ever have been called upon to perform while on active duty.

"The success of the Selected Reserve Force in meeting its mobilization-readiness goals answers loud and clear any doubts what citizen-soldiers can accomplish on inactive duty," he said.

But the Vice President said that readiness is only one function of today's National Guard.

He pointed out that more than half of the active Nike Air Defense batteries in the continental United States and Hawaii are manned by National Guardsmen.

Mr. Humphrey also noted that the daily stream of aircraft carrying military cargo to Vietnam advertises the insignia of Air National Guard units from many states.

New Navy Device Aids In Safe Carrier Landings

The Navy is installing an automatic engine-throttle-control on all first-line carrier-based jets to help pilots make safer landings, particularly during difficult night and all-weather operations.

Called "APC" for Approach Power Compensator, the automatic electronic device accurately controls airspeed during landing, a task previously performed by the pilot.

Developed by the Naval Air Systems Command, the device has been installed in F-8 Crusader and RA-5C Vigilante aircraft.

Officials said the new device will be installed in all new Navy aircraft, such as the F-111B and A-7A. Also, Federal Aviation Agency and commercial airlines are considering use of the APC as part of proposed all-weather landing systems.

Operational experience with the new device is being gained under the severest possible conditions in the Gulf of Tonkin and the South China Sea off Vietnam, the officials said.

Lt. Gen. Jack G. Merrell Given Zuckert Award

The first Eugene M. Zuckert Management Award was awarded to Lt. Gen. Jack G. Merrell, Comptroller of the Air Force by Secretary of the Air Force Harold Brown.

Criteria for the annual award was announced last year following Mr. Zuckert's retirement as Air Force Secretary. The award is a tribute to the former Secretary's "dedication to sound management principles and long Air Force service."

Gen. Merrell is "credited with advancing the concept of comptrollership and stewardship over assets valued at more than $86-billion."

Considered for the award were general officers or equivalent level civilians who made outstanding contributions to Air Force management during the past fiscal year.

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